Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A computer program product for improving performance and resource utilization of software applications that interact with a back-end data source to update information stored therein, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for storing one or more objects in a cache for responding to update requests against a back-end data source corresponding to each of the objects, wherein (1) a set of input properties is stored with or associated with each stored object and (2) update logic specifying how to update the back-end data source corresponding to each of the stored objects is stored with or associated with the stored object or a group of stored objects;

computer-readable program code means for receiving update requests against one or more of the objects;

computer-readable program code means for checking an update policy to determine ~~determining~~ an update mode to use for a selected update request, responsive to the computer-readable program code means for receiving;

computer-readable program code means for immediately processing the selected update request against the back-end data source if the determined update mode is not a delayed update mode; and

computer-readable program code means for delaying processing of the selected update request against the back-end data source otherwise.

Claim 8 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein the computer-readable program code means for delaying processing further comprises:

computer-readable program code means for queuing the selected update request, along with the input properties and values thereof which are to be used for performing the selected update request, as a queued update request on an update queue;

computer-readable program code means for detecting a triggering event for performing the delayed processing of the queued update requests; and

computer-readable program code means for performing, responsive to the computer-readable program code means for detecting, the queued update requests.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 8, wherein the computer-readable program code means for performing further comprises:

computer-readable program code means for setting the input properties of a selected object against which the queued update request is to be performed using the queued input property values; and

computer-readable program code means for executing the update logic stored with or associated with the selected object, thereby updating the back-end data source corresponding to the selected object.

Claim 10 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 8, wherein the triggering event comprises reaching a particular count of queued update requests for a selected object.

Claim 11 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 8, wherein the triggering event comprises reaching a particular time of day.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 8, wherein the triggering event comprises a count of read requests received for ~~information about~~ an associated object which is used for responding to read requests.

Claim 13 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 8, wherein a separate update queue is created for each of one or more back-end data sources to be accessed during operation of the computer-readable program code means for performing.

Claim 14 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein the computer-readable program code means for determining further comprises computer-readable program code means for selecting the delayed update mode based upon a time of day when the selected update request is received.

Claim 15 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein the computer-readable program code means for determining further comprises computer-readable program code means for selecting the delayed update mode based upon a classification of a user making the selected update request.

Claim 16 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 8, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for connecting to the back-end data source prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for performing; and

computer-readable program code means for disconnecting from the back-end data source after operation of the computer-readable program code means for performing.

Claims 17 - 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended): A system for improving performance and resource utilization of software applications that interact with a back-end data source to update information stored therein, comprising:

means for storing one or more objects in a cache for responding to update requests against a back-end data source corresponding to each of the objects, wherein (1) a set of input properties is stored with or associated with each stored object and (2) update logic specifying how to update the back-end data source corresponding to each of the stored objects is stored with or associated with the stored object or a group of stored objects;

means for receiving update requests against one or more of the objects;

means for ~~determining~~ checking an update policy to determine an update mode to use for a selected update request, responsive to the means for receiving;

means for immediately processing the selected update request against the back-end data source if the determined update mode is not a delayed update mode; and

means for delaying processing of the selected update request against the back-end data

source otherwise.

Claim 24 (original): The system according to Claim 23, wherein the means for delaying processing further comprises:

means for queuing the selected update request, along with the input properties and values thereof which are to be used for performing the selected update request, as a queued update request on an update queue;

means for detecting a triggering event for performing the delayed processing of the queued update requests; and

means for performing, responsive to the means for detecting, the queued update requests.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 24, wherein the means for performing further comprises:

means for setting the input properties of a selected object against which the queued update request is to be performed using the queued input property values; and

means for executing the update logic stored with or associated with the selected object, thereby updating the back-end data source corresponding to the selected object.

Claim 26 (original): The system according to Claim 24, wherein the triggering event comprises reaching a particular count of queued update requests for a selected object.

Claim 27 (original): The system according to Claim 24, wherein the triggering event comprises

reaching a particular time of day.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 24, wherein the triggering event comprises ~~information about~~ a count of read requests received for an associated object which is used for responding to read requests.

Claim 29 (original): The system according to Claim 24, wherein a separate update queue is created for each of one or more back-end data sources to be accessed during operation of the means for performing.

Claim 30 (original): The system according to Claim 23, wherein the means for determining further comprises means for selecting the delayed update mode based upon a time of day when the selected update request is received.

Claim 31 (original): The system according to Claim 23, wherein the means for determining further comprises means for selecting the delayed update mode based upon a classification of a user making the selected update request.

Claim 32 (original): The system according to Claim 24, further comprising:

means for connecting to the back-end data source prior to operation of the means for performing; and

means for disconnecting from the back-end data source after operation of the means for

performing.

Claims 33 - 38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (currently amended): A method for improving performance and resource utilization of software applications that interact with a back-end data source to update information stored therein, comprising the steps of:

storing one or more objects in a cache for responding to update requests against a back-end data source corresponding to each of the objects, wherein (1) a set of input properties is stored with or associated with each stored object and (2) update logic specifying how to update the back-end data source corresponding to each of the stored objects is stored with or associated with the stored object or a group of stored objects;

receiving update requests against one or more of the objects;

checking an update policy to determine ~~determining~~ an update mode to use for a selected update request, responsive to the receiving step;

immediately processing the selected update request against the back-end data source if the determined update mode is not a delayed update mode; and

delaying processing of the selected update request against the back-end data source otherwise.

Claim 40 (original): The method according to Claim 39, wherein the step of delaying processing further comprises the steps of:

queuing the selected update request, along with the input properties and values thereof which are to be used for performing the selected update request, as a queued update request on an update queue;

detecting a triggering event for performing the delayed processing of the queued update requests; and

performing, responsive to the detecting step, the queued update requests.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 40, wherein the performing step further comprises the steps of:

setting the input properties of a selected object against which the queued update request is to be performed using the queued input property values; and

executing the update logic stored with or associated with the selected object, thereby updating the back-end data source corresponding to the selected object.

Claim 42 (original): The method according to Claim 40, wherein the triggering event comprises reaching a particular count of queued update requests for a selected object.

Claim 43 (original): The method according to Claim 40, wherein the triggering event comprises reaching a particular time of day.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 40, wherein the triggering event comprises ~~information about~~ a count of read requests received for an associated object which is used

for responding to read requests.

Claim 45 (original): The method according to Claim 40, wherein a separate update queue is created for each of one or more back-end data sources to be accessed during operation of the step of performing.

Claim 46 (original): The method according to Claim 39, wherein the determining step further comprises the step of selecting the delayed update mode based upon a time of day when the selected update request is received.

Claim 47 (original): The method according to Claim 39, wherein the determining step further comprises the step of selecting the delayed update mode based upon a classification of a user making the selected update request.

Claim 48 (original): The method according to Claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

connecting to the back-end data source prior to operation of the performing step; and

disconnecting from the back-end data source after operation of the performing step.